

Critics: Bush's tax cuts cripple poor

By Askia Muhammad
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA)—The dividend portion of President George W. Bush's massive \$726 billion proposed tax cut will provide windfall benefits for top administration officials among the nation's richest taxpayers who receive dividend income.

Treasury Secretary John Snow, for example, tops the list of Bush officials who would profit. Snow would get a \$275,000 tax break from the dividend tax breaks, while Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld would pocket an extra \$184,000 in dividend tax savings, and Commerce Secretary Don Evans would get \$181,000.

"Over the past few weeks," Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-Ohio) complained to reporters, "President Bush and his cabinet have criss-crossed the country in an attempt to promote their irresponsible tax cut plan. 'Let me remind you, this is a plan that will pay for tax cuts for the wealthy through cuts in education and health care programs for America's children and seniors. The centerpiece of the president's plan is a tax break on dividends that does nothing to help America's families now, and will create huge deficits in the future.'"

Ordinary people, on the other hand, are "struggling in the Bush economy," Democrats argue. Neither the dividend tax cut nor the Republican tax-cut "compromise," agreed to on May 8, will create new jobs and the GOP "still ignores the needs of working families."

"Under the Bush plan, the bottom 50 percent of taxpayers—those individuals making around \$29,000 a year—will get an average of \$100 in tax benefits," said Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.), a chief deputy whip in the House Democratic leadership.

"The Secretary of the Treasury, John Snow, the president's point man on the economy, will get an annual break of \$275,000. Imagine Secretary Snow standing in a room filled with 2,750 people, explaining why it is good for the country that he get a tax break equal to all of theirs combined; a room filled with pre-school teachers, secretaries, waiters, nurse assistants, day care providers, retail and service workers, janitors, security guards," Schakowsky said. Rather than create jobs, the Bush plan will ensure cuts to education, job training and health care, Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle said in a statement. During the Bush presidency, the U.S. has lost 2.5 million private-sector jobs. More than 8.5 million Americans are currently unemployed.

"The administration's dividend tax cut won't create new jobs in the short term," Tubbs-Jones said, "and it causes the economy to lose another 750,000 jobs over the next decade. It will raid Social Security and Medicare and force programs that help all Americans, including health care and homeland security."

The tax plan does little to help small businesses and state and local governments, say Democrats. The Republican compromise plan includes nothing for small businesses struggling to keep their employees insured, and gives only limited relief for states, which are struggling with the worst fiscal crisis they've faced in more than 50 years.

"The president is trying to pass off his tax breaks as a sound plan for economic growth, when the only growth I see is in his millionaire friends' bank accounts—at a huge cost to working families," said Gerald McEntee, international president of the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees.

Askia Muhammad writes for The Final Call.



Photo special to Sentinel-Voice

BACK TO BUSINESS

The Clark County Summer Business Institute, a program giving youth jobs in various industries, held its opening reception Friday at Cashman Field. Pictured are student participants, mentors, employers and program coordinators. From left to right: student Courtney Williams, Suzanne Madison of Allegra Consulting, Bankwest of Nevada's Lois Greene, Clark County Business Development Director Debbie Conway, student Genaye Chânnel, Bank of America's Ken Barnes, Judy Ann Young of Allstate Insurance and UNLV assistant professor Dr. Brad Donohue.

Company touts DNA test in hunt for killer

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Authorities hunting the Louisiana serial killer started focusing on black men after a DNA test indicated the killer's race, the company that did the test said Wednesday. It was apparently the first such use of a test in a criminal investigation.

A crime-scene DNA sample was found to have come from "an African-American individual of average skin tone for the African-American group," said Tony Frudakis, chief scientific of-

ficer of DNAPrint Genomics Inc. of Sarasota, Fla.

Derrick Todd Lee, who was arrested May 27 in the serial killings of five Louisiana women, is black. Police say a sample of his DNA was taken as part of an investigation of some seemingly unrelated cases, and was then linked to the serial killings.

A spokeswoman for the task force that investigated the serial killings confirmed Wednesday that its investigators worked with DNAPrint Genomics but de-

clined to comment further.

Authorities had initially indicated for about seven months that they were looking for a white man, based on a psychological profile and witness accounts. But in March, police said the killer could be of any race.

Frudakis said his company's test result led investigators to pay more attention to leads involving blacks than to other leads, and "that is why the case was solved two months after we ran the test for them" in

March.

Frudakis said the test determines how much of a person's ancestry comes from each of four groups: sub-Saharan African, East Asian, Indo-European and Native American. It indicated that the ancestry of whoever left the DNA sample from the serial killer investigation was 85 percent sub-Saharan African and 15 percent Native American, he said. From that mix, the company was able to estimate the individual's

(See DNA, Page 18)



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